

Research Center in lower Manhattan is a goal that I intend to work feverishly on with my New York colleagues and others. Such a facility would pay homage to those souls who were brought to this country to help build it, while under enslavement. Such a facility would join the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the Museum of the American Indian, the World Trade Center site, and other great New York City landmarks as a national and international symbol that tells America's full story of freedom, the quest for freedom, and the openness of our society. Most important, the study of African culture through the results of DNA testing on the African Burial Grounds will help to further educate and enlighten our citizens to a culture that is central to the building of this proud nation.

As the Lewis/Watts bill reflected in a Finding, the Secretary of the Smithsonian declared in 1998 that the African Burial Ground site provided the "perfect" opportunity to dissect the institution of slavery in this country—urban, rural, northern, and southern—including the aspects of the international trade. The Burial Grounds in New York are home to the remains of 20,000 enslaved Africans. These men and women were first generation African Americans, who had to endure inhumane conditions aboard slave ships, before they were forced into labor.

I attended the ceremonies of October 3rd and 4th at the African Burial Ground commemorating the reinterment of some 430 sets of remains that had been under study at Howard University for the last decade. Thousands of people were also in attendance for this event, signaling a clear indication of the powerful feelings of respect that lies with our citizens for an African sanctum in lower Manhattan.

I feel that, ultimately, the new national museum should follow the model of the National Museum of the American Indian, with facilities at both Washington and New York City. The facility in New York, in combination with the magnificent facility to be created here in Washington, would have an overall national and international impact of breathtaking scope and scale. As evident during the ceremonies, an African Burial Ground museum facility would also play a significant role in the revitalization of lower Manhattan in this post-9/11 world, with the hopes that it will become a major national and international visitor's mecca that would join with other New York sites in bringing millions of people, and with them, an economic boom to the entire area.

I whole-heartedly believe that the African Burial Ground is a true national treasure. It is unique in this nation and all the world as an archaeological site, and a site of unparalleled significance, symbolism, and power. A site and museum facility of this magnitude of importance must be part of any national museum, and it must be part of New York's African Burial Grounds.

I would like to thank John Lewis for his long fight to make the dream of a National Museum of African American History and Culture a reality. I would also like to thank my distinguished colleagues from Kansas and Connecticut, Senators BROWNBACK and DODD, for leading these efforts in the Senate.

MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE, OBEY MOTION TO INSTRUCT

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday's CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflects my vote as "yea" on rollcall Vote 624, Representative OBEY's motion to instruct conferees on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2004. I would like to state for the RECORD that my vote should have been "nay."

I have long opposed the reimportation of prescription drugs because it creates a significant safety risk for consumers. A recent examination of several mail facilities by FDA and U.S. Customs reinforces these concerns. After six days in four cities, these examinations found drugs being reimported that have never been approved by the FDA, without labeling or instructions for safe use, and even some that the FDA has withdrawn from the U.S. market for safety reasons. In addition, expanding the importation of prescription drugs increases the likelihood that seniors will receive counterfeit drugs, a potentially very serious health hazard.

Finally, liberalizing the importation of prescription drugs does not address the underlying problem of high prescription drug costs. There are other legislative remedies that can decrease prescription drug costs without undermining consumer safety. For these reasons, I oppose the Obey motion to instruct conferees on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF DON MOCK

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Mock for his exemplary public service as a member of the Boulder City Council from 1996 through 2003. I would like to thank him on behalf of all Boulder citizens for the depth and diversity of contributions he has made to ensure that our city remains a very special place to live.

Raised in Florida, Don received his BS and MS in Physics from the University of Florida, and his PhD in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington. He has worked as a Research Assistant in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington and as a Support Scientist for the Physical Oceanography Group of the NASA/Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory. In 1989, Don moved to Colorado to work as Systems Manager for the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Since 1991 he has been a Systems Manager and later a Director of Computing and Network Services at the Climate Diagnostics Center of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's Environmental Research Laboratories.

In 1996, Don was appointed to the Boulder City Council and elected a year later to an-

other term. On the Council, he quickly earned the respect of his colleagues for his intelligence, sound judgment, and moderate approach to a wide range of issues. He provided thoughtful and skilled leadership in the areas of budget policy, taxes, transportation, affordable housing, school overcrowding and the environment. Don was actively engaged in resolving the status of the 9th and Canyon hotel site and was a strong proponent of the comprehensive rezoning project to address commercial growth issues.

He has served successfully in such diverse organizations as the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Bureau of Conference Services and Cultural Affairs, the Boulder Community Celebrations, and the Dairy Center for the Arts. An important part of his focus on Council has been sensible growth management, sustainable use of resources, and a strong, stable economy.

Prior to his appointment to Council, Don was chair of the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and served four years as a co-chair of the Whittier Neighborhood Association, as well as two years on the Steering Committee for the Pine Street/Whittier Traffic Mitigation Project. In 1995, he was especially effective in working with the Citizens for Parks and Recreation to successfully pass the Parks Ballot Issue which led to new acquisitions of park land in the city of Boulder. Over the years, Don has been unswerving in his commitment to policies that serve the environment, the education and health of people, and principles of integrity and fairness.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Councilman Mock for his years of public service and his contributions to the people of Boulder, Colorado. I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, due to a scheduling conflict, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 620 to 623. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

On rollcall vote 620, S.J. Res. 22—Recognizing the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture for 50 years of outstanding service, I would have voted "aye".

On rollcall vote 621, S.J. Res. 18—Commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years, I would have voted "aye".

On rollcall vote 622, H. Con. Res. 299—Honoring Mr. Sargent Shriver for his dedication and service to the United States of America, I would have voted "aye".

On rollcall vote 623, on hour of meeting, I would have voted "aye".